

Amendments to the Claims

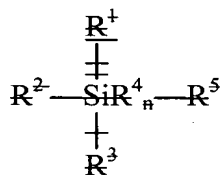
1. (Currently amended) A method of preparing a diene-based elastomer/filler composite which comprises

(A) polymerizing at least one conjugated diene hydrocarbon selected from isoprene, 1,3-butadiene and mixtures thereof or copolymerizing at least one conjugated diene selected from isoprene and 1,3-butadiene, and mixtures thereof, styrene in an organic solvent and in the presence of at least one treated particulate filler ~~selected from at least one of wherein said particulate filler is a precipitated silica, and modified carbon black~~

(B) terminating the polymerization reaction; wherein said elastomer composite contains from about 10 to about 100 phr of said filler;

wherein said treated filler is treated by

(1) first treating said filler to silanize said filler with an organosilane of the general formula (I):



—wherein R^1 , R^2 and R^3 are equal or individually and independently selected from CH_3 , H, Cl and (OR^6) and R^6 is individually selected from methyl, ethyl and propyl radicals, R^4 is a CH_2 radical, n is an integer of zero or one, wherein if n is one then R^4 is selected from an aryl radical, an alkenylaryl radical, an alkenylarylalkyl radical or an alkylaryl radical, and R^5 is selected from an $(\text{CH}=\text{CH}_2)$ radical, an acrylate or a methacrylate radical] followed by

(2) treating said silanized filler with said a polymerization initiator as selected from butyl lithium $[[,]]$ and tetramethyl ethylenediamine, ~~or a peroxide initiator of~~

~~organic solvent anionic or radicalar polymerization, as the case may be, diene-based monomer polymerizations;~~

wherein said organosilane is selected from the group consisting of

3-acryloxypropyl-trimethoxy silane, methacryloxymethyl trimethoxy silane,

methacryloxymethyl triethoxy silane, methacryloxymethyl trimethyl silane, allyltriethoxysilane,

allyltrimethoxysilane, 5-(biscycloheptenyl)triethoxysilane, 3-butenyltriethoxysilane,

[2-(3-cyclohexenyl)ethyl] trimethoxysilane, 3-(cyclopentadienylpropyl)triethoxysilane,

3-acryloxypropyl-methyldichlorosilane, 3-acryloxypropy-dimethylmethoxysilane,

3-acryloxypropyl-trichlorosilane, allylmethyldichlorosilane, allyldimethylsilazane,

5-(biscycloheptenyl)dimethylchlorosilane, 3-butenylmethyldichlorosilane,

[2-(3-cyclohexenyl)ethyl] dimethylchlorosilane, [2-(3-cyclohexenyl)ethyl] trichlorosilane,

3-(cyclopentadienyl)trimethylsilane, and styrylethyl trimethoxysilane.

2. (Cancelled)

3. (Cancelled)

4. (Cancelled)

5. (Cancelled)

6. (Cancelled)

7. (Cancelled)

8. (Cancelled)

9. (Cancelled)

10. (Original) An elastomer/filler composite prepared by the method of claim 1.

11. (Cancelled)

12. (Cancelled)

13. (Original) A rubber composition comprised of said elastomer/filler composite of claim 10 and at least one additional elastomer selected from polymers of isoprene, 1,3-butadiene

and mixtures thereof and copolymers of isoprene, 1,3-butadiene and mixtures thereof with styrene.

14. (Cancelled)

15. (Cancelled)

16. (Original) An article of manufacture having at least one component of a rubber composition comprised of the elastomer/filler composite of claim 10.

17. (Original) A tire having at least one component of a rubber composition comprised of the elastomer/filler composite of claim 10.

18. (Cancelled)

19. (Cancelled)

20. (Cancelled)